

REMARKS

Entry of the Amendment Under Rule 116 dated April 14, 2003, is requested.

Entry of the attached RCE is requested. Consideration of the attached Declaration is requested. Entry of the above amendments is requested.

Claims 3, 5 and 14-17 have been canceled, without prejudice. Claims 1, 2, 4, 6-13, 18-39 are pending. Claim 24 is an independent claim reciting the details of claim 1 and previously pending claim 3. The remaining new claims are similar to claims 4, 6-13 and 18-23 but dependent on this new claim 24. No new matter has been added.

Submitted herewith for the Examiner's consideration is a Declaration of Geraldine Lerebour in support of the claimed invention. Entry of the Amendment filed April 14, 2003, and consideration of the same along with the attached are requested. The Examiner is further requested to return an initialed copy of the PTO-1449 Form filed April 24, 2003, pursuant to MPEP § 609.

The claims are submitted to be in condition for allowance and a Notice to that effect is requested. Specifically, the attached Declaration demonstrates the unexpected benefits and non-obviousness of presently claimed invention.

A Notice of Allowance is requested.

"SAINT-LEGER


Appl. No. 09/449,924

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Respectfully submitted,

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